



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT, Tel: 020 8633 9926 www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

President - STUART WOODROW



Chairman - PIP BURLEY



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NEWSLETTER 350 - November / December 2013

From the Chairman

It is now six months since we opened our office at the School and much has happened.

Peter Cox's highly entertaining book, *Memories of Whitgift* continues to elicit orders from all over the world. We have held a number of well-attended reunions including the newly revived South West Dinner in June and the East Anglia Dinner in October. In September nearly eighty military OWs gathered for a banquet at the Rifles Club in the West End, hosted by Head of the Army, OW Sir Peter Wall.

At the end of October we have a wine tasting when we will choose the 'official' Whitgiftian Association Claret available via our website in time for Christmas. There is a Vice Presidents' Dinner in the Old Library in November and our Annual Family Christmas Lunch on Sunday, 15th December at the Whitgift Sports Club in Croham Road. Book now, this fun event sells out very quickly!

There have also been many less formal get-togethers including a number of Prefects' Reunions as well as our City Group, organised via WA social media links.

None of this activity would be possible without the enthusiastic input of dozens of volunteers who, ably supported by our office staff, make it all happen. As we gather momentum we need more OWs to come forward and set up new groups - musical, dining, theatre, debating - you name it - in fact any shared interest which might form the basis of regular gatherings or excursions. So, if you have any thoughts or ideas, let us know.

I am pleased to welcome our first group of Sixth Form members. The OW community offers a vast range of working experience, available to you as you prepare to leave Whitgift. Should you have any individual queries don't hesitate to call in at our office in South Entrance. You will find a warm welcome.

Meanwhile our website goes from strength to strength as do our links on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. There is something new every day. You can book and pay for events online and soon you will be able to buy merchandise, too. Watch this space.

My very best wishes to all OWs, wherever you are. And remember "get in touch and stay in touch!"

Pip Burley

Chairman, Whitgiftian Association



HRH Opens New Boarding House *and other* News from the School

HRH The Duke of York officially opened the new boarding house, Founder's House, on 16th October. The Duke unveiled a statue of John Whitgift (pictured above), sculpted by Sam Holland, which is positioned at the front of the boarding house.

The first seven weeks of term have flown by with the amount of activities and opportunities on offer to boys increasing every year. This half-term there are exchanges to Hamburg, Berlin, Valencia, Beijing and Verona; there is a Classics trip to Rome and Pompeii, an International Baccalaureate trip to Paris and a Surf Safari to Portugal. The History and Politics Department is taking two trips, one to the USA (Washington, New York and Gettysburg) and one to Berlin. The 1st XI Hockey team is going on a tour to Holland and the Golfers to a tournament in Spain. The RAF Section of the CCF has a Flying Trip to RAF Benson and the Army Section has a Training Camp at Folkestone.

Success on the sports front has continued in many different areas. The highlight being the batting of Dominic Sibley UV1th (pictured overleaf with OW Test Cricketer Raman Subba Row), who in his third first-class match for Surrey, became the youngest double centurion in the history of County Championship cricket. His 242 (eventually bowled by Ryan Sidebottom) against Yorkshire, was a real marathon lasting one minute short of ten hours during which time he broke several records: He became Surrey's youngest

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Whitgiftian Association will be held on **Saturday 7th December** at Haling Park at 11:00 am. We warmly welcome all members and hope you will be able to attend. Please telephone the office on **020 8633 9926** or email office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk if you require further information.

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centurion, the 2nd youngest double centurion in first-class cricket in England after W.G. Grace and the 13th youngest double centurion in the world. He will be playing for England U19 alongside Jack Winslade (OW) this winter.

After their successful South Seas tour, the 1st XV began the season with another win in the Esher President's Tournament, defeating John Fisher School 10-0 in the final. There was then a hard fought draw against last year's Leavers XV and wins against Bishop's Wordsworth and Skinners. There followed a couple of defeats to Wellington and Warwick, but City of London Freemen's were beaten comfortably in the Nat West Cup. The derby game against John Fisher was won 25-24, in a tremendous game with a nail-biting finish.

The School Golf team recently won the ISGA Schools Cup; George Mullins was the individual winner with team members Joe Carmody-Firth, Harvey Byers and Neil Kendrick (teacher). Harvey Byers has been selected for the U16 South of England golf squad.

The swimmers have made a successful start to the season, at the South-East Divisional Relay Championships the U18s won both the Medley and Freestyle events, the U16s were Runners-up in the Freestyle, and the U14s and U12s both won their Medley and Freestyle events - a remarkable effort!



The School has had great success in Penthalon and Biathlon recently. At the South-East Championships Joe Hubner won the U12, Jamie Regan the U14, Charlie Goriup the U15 and Joshua Miller the U16.

Events for the 2nd half of term include the *Autumn Collection* at the Fairfield Halls, 21st November; *The Piper of Hamelin* in the Performing Arts Centre, 28th/29th November; *A View from the Bridge* in Big School, 11th/12th/13th December. (Details from the School Office 020 8688 9222 or visit the WA website at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events). The *School Carol Concert* is on 19th December at Croydon Minster. School breaks for Christmas on Friday 20th December.

Phil Fladgate

OW East Anglian Branch Dinner

Just under forty OWs and their partners, including President Stuart Woodrow and his wife Monique, as well as ex-headmaster David Raeburn, gathered at Clare College, Cambridge for the 2013 East Anglian Dinner on 18th October.

The evening began with drinks in the Garden Room at the Gillespie Centre followed by a short walk through the Fellow's Garden and over the river Cam to the Old Court and the Small Hall for dinner.

Introducing the formalities, the President said how pleased he was to welcome the man who had been



Stuart Woodrow, David Raeburn, Pip Burley and Peter Cox

headmaster during his own time at Whitgift and paid tribute to David Raeburn's many achievements at the School. He went on to describe the official opening by HRH Prince Andrew of the new Boarding House at the School (see page 1) and the unveiling of the new sculpture of the Founder, John Whitgift.

Peter Cox, author and editor of the recently published *Memories of Whitgift - the Boys' Own Tales*, then regaled guests with some highly entertaining extracts from the book, including a number of japes and high jinks, particularly the 'Great 1960's Desk Swap' which has rapidly become the stuff of legend.

Bringing the evening to a conclusion, WA Chairman, Pip Burley, updated those present on current WA activities, including the success of the recent Gerry Bowthorpe Memorial Appeal, which has so far raised £30,000 enabling the complete refurbishment of the main hall at the Whitgift Sports Club in Croham Road, to be re-named the Gerry Bowthorpe Room.

The dinner concluded with a vote of thanks to John Humphries for his excellent organisation resulting in a well attended and enjoyable event.

Pip Burley

Trivia trail... The big red air ambulance helicopter circled lower and lower over North Field and once the Bursar had persuaded it not to land on the main cricket square it settled down near the pavilion. Out sprang three fully kitted men who rushed up the steps onto the drive where the Porter's car was commandeered to rush them to the scene of an accident at South Croydon station. The School was pleased to have been of service.

Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival

The Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival was held on 7th September at Whitgift, where Charlie was a pupil before his tragic death in a boating accident last year. The Festival, which involved 10 junior and 6 senior teams, attracted more than 200 spectators, including England international Darren Cheesman. The School's Head of Hockey, Dr Karl Stagno said: "It was a fantastic fun day in memory of a truly amazing boy." Charlie's father, Simon, said: "The support of Whitgift School, friends, family and lovers of hockey has been amazing. We hope to grow the festival as a lasting legacy to Charlie, inspiring future generations to play with the skill, passion and fun that he brought to the sport." The proceeds from the hockey festival supplement the fundraising efforts of Charlie's brothers Tom and Sam who have topped their £15,000 target for the RNLI.



Please consider making a donation at www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/hutton

First World War OW Memorial Plaque

The first charge on the OWA War Memorial Trust Fund is to remember the Fallen, so when John Nalson discovered that there was no Whitgift Memorial in the St George's Church at Ypres the OWTL sprang into action. The Headmaster gave his blessing and negotiations were started with the Belgian authorities and the WW1 OW Book of Remembrance was scrutinized for details. The final wording was agreed and the Plaque commissioned and mounted on display in the Church and to complete the process a short dedication service was held on Sunday evening 30th June 2013 to coincide with the School's U3rd form history visit.

Afterwards two memorial wreaths were laid at the Menin Gate during the nightly Last Post ceremony on behalf of the School and the Old Whitgiftians. A second plaque has been mounted at the School in South Entrance, together with the other OW memorials to the Fallen, and will be dedicated during the Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November 2013 at 11.00am



Richard Blundell, John Nalson, Matthew Honeyman, Oliver Glenin

when all members are invited to attend the Service to support the

President and the Chairman who will lead the dedication.

Richard Blundell



OW News

Simon John Fleet (1950-57) was installed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers at Vintners Hall on Wednesday 25th September. He will remain Master for one year.



Sportsman's Lunch - 16th November

A limited number of tickets are now available for this year's Sportsman's Lunch, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Welcome drinks in the 6th Form Centre will be followed by lunch in the Old Library and the opportunity to support the School's 1st XV against Dulwich College. Tickets are £35 per head for members of the WA, staff and parents of current Whitgiftians, £25 per head for students and £40 for all others. Jacket and tie is requested, Sports Club or Colours Blazer if possible. Book on our website or use the booking form enclosed.

Find out more and book at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

OW Fives Club

The run up to the 2013-14 Fives season was given a boost when more than fifty players and supporters from across the country gathered at Whitgift as host for the Rugby Fives Association London Open tournament.

Old Whits Tony Hamilton and Nick Woolfenden joined a throng of the country's top players for a great mid-September weekend of Fives. Whilst no trophies were forthcoming for the home entrants, a thoroughly entertaining weekend of top-quality Fives was had by all.

With four courts Whitgift served as a good venue for this event which moves locations annually, raising



Whitgift courts packed with top national Fives players and spectators for London Open

the profile of Whitgift with a wide range of players from across the country. We hope its success will lead to future national events coming to the school.

Spurred on by this pre-season appetizer, the Old Whits took on the RFA for our first match of the

2013-14 season in mid-October. With gratitude to all who played, including two late-notice stand-ins as our squad was hit by injuries, the OWs put in a respectable performance. However the strong RFA team (including a former national number 1 player) ultimately proved victorious.

We look forward to the forthcoming season. As always do contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com) if you'd like to play sociably (most Thursday evenings, and some Sundays) or competitively - all welcome!

Nick Woolfenden

Old Whitgiftian Golf Society

Twenty-four golfers took to Ashdown's Old and New Courses on Sunday 8th September and none emerged dry! Nothing, however, could dampen the spirits of John Butler, who raced away with the newly presented Autumn Cup. This was Mike Spanswick's last meeting as President of the OWGS, and he's done a terrific job.

On a wet and windy Sunday at The Addington in mid-September, the OWGS failed to win back the Barnett Cup; the school demonstrated real strength in depth and ran out overall winners by three matches to one.

A successful, but ultimately frustrating Grafton Morrish competition (a scratch competition open to all schools in the Headmasters' Conference) saw the OWs bring a very competitive blend of experience and youth. Joining Nic Gates in the experienced camp were Neill Williams and veteran Martin Hayes, alongside students Tom Bloxsome (Durham), James Mabbutt (Edinburgh) and Joe Marchbank (St Andrews).

With a first round bye, two of our first three matches against Bolton were won, easing us into the day.

Drawn against the hotly tipped Glasgow Academy in round three, Hayes and Mabbutt were quickly under pressure from their opponents and eventually lost 2&1. Gates and Marchbank had more success in the second match, Gates confidently rolling in the putt for a birdie and a 3&2 victory. Williams and Bloxsome continued their unbeaten partnership that began at the Hewitt earlier this year, running out comfortable 4&3 winners, securing 2-1 victory.

Our fourth round match against Wellington was evenly poised from the start. Gates and Marchbank bounced between one up and level through the front nine, before two excellent pars at the 17th eventually secured the OWs a 2&1 victory. Williams and Bloxsome were beaten on the 17th, before attention turned to the deciding match. The OWs were unfortunate to miss the green on



Messrs Hollidge, Mason and Kelley on Purbeck's 5th tee, Isle of Purbeck

the 16th, but, despite a positive chip from Hayes, couldn't match the par of Wellington. The 17th proved to be our final hole of the competition as another bogey from the OWs sealed our fate.

The close defeat gives us further confidence that both Grafton and Hewitt are within our grasp. With several low handicap golfers due to leave the school in the next couple of years, the team should grow even stronger.

Peter Gale (OWGS secretary)

Tour organiser John Gould reports on Dorset visit...

The views of Poole Harbour, from the Isle of Purbeck course, more than made up for the tortuous journey, all the more impressive thanks to the fine weather. O'Lunaigh (33) and Gale (34) both played well, but the winner was Berners-Price (35). Spending a lot of time on the England Amateur Golf Tour, playing nearly a round of golf a day on average, clearly benefitted Mike!

Parkstone was the venue for the second challenge - excellent clubhouse, professional staff, and most important of all, outstanding course. Some very good golf was played by Berners-Price (37), Huxtable (38) and Hollidge (38), but all were surpassed by Tony Harris (39).

The final leg of the tour was at Ferndown, a challenging heathland course. Spanswick, who suffered severe back pain throughout the tour, managed a creditable 31 points. 4 players finished with 33 points, Longhurst (35) coming home in second. The winner was Berners-Price (40), which, deservedly, gave him the overall title.

News from the Whitgift Sports Club

OW Cricket Club

Congratulations to Pardeep Chatwal and the 2nd XI for topping Division 3 and gaining promotion. They won ten of the season's eighteen games, with 121 points. Captain Pardeep scored 433 runs including 105 against Pyrford and took 21 wickets at an average of 17.43, ably supported by Vishal Khetia who scored 266 runs and Shaz Rana who scored 234 runs at an average of 33.43 and took twenty wickets at an average of ten.

Our other league sides both finished in comfortable mid table positions. James Earl's 3rd XI came 5th in the table with nine wins and were just twelve points behind the promoted side in 2nd place Banstead. The skipper scored most runs with 269 followed by Sean McGurn 242, John Weller 232, Victor Mendon 221 and Arun Ramamurthy 219. James Earl also topped the bowling stats with 26 wickets ably supported by 15 year old Amir Raza with 24.

The 1st XI came 6th with six wins. Individually 17-year old Matthew Stiddard made great strides to top the batting stats with 429 runs, including his well deserved maiden hundred at Dulwich, together with twenty-seven dismissals behind the stumps. David Burton made 409 with two fifties; Murti Hussain 329; Mo Raza 328, skipper Ali Raja 294 and Adam Clarke with 278 were the

other main contributors. Hussain topped the bowling averages for the 4th season running with forty-two at eighteen each and Burton would have returned more than thirty-one without the back injury which stopped him bowling in five matches. Young Aussie left armer Brendan Taylor opened the bowling with Burton and took sixteen wickets in addition to being a first rate team member who kept morale high at all times, whilst vice skipper Luke Fisher took fourteen.

The stand out performance from our numerous colts sides was from the U16s managed by Sailesh Khetia who were NEC league champions winning five of their nine games. Congratulations to the U16s!

Stuart Woodrow



OW Rugby Club

The rugby season is well under way at Croham Road (hoorah!). It wasn't all quiet over the summer though. The Warriors had a successful tour down to Newquay for a spot of 7s and the U21s reached the semi-finals of the Cronk-Cunis National Old Boys rugby tournament, narrowly losing to a talented Old Wellingtonian side - the eventual winners. In the last three years we have reached the semi-final in this tournament twice and been runners-up once. It won't be too long until we come home with the cup!

Pre-season was promisingly well attended and it is great to see a good

number of Old Whitgiftian university leavers returning to Croham Road to play their rugby.

The 1st XV remains in Surrey 1 and has a challenging fixture list. A couple of disappointing results away from home were made up for by a superb performance at home against Kingston, winning 48-18. The Wanderers have kicked off the season with some tough fixtures and are yet to have their first win. However, it has been encouraging to see a group of new young players starting to take over from some Wanderers stalwarts who start to wind down into retirement. The

Warriors season has not really got going yet but we're all looking forward to seeing how their hard working touring over the summer pays dividends in the season ahead!

As always we are holding Supporters' Lunches before every 1st XV home game. These can all be booked into through the Clubhouse. Up-to-date fixture list can be found on the club website www.oldwhitsrugby.com.

We would be delighted to see you down at Croham Road to support the rugby club.

Sam Barke

500 Club

For only £12 a year per number you could win hundreds of pounds in our quarterly draws! Buy as many numbers as you like!



Autumn draw winners were:-

£100 - Miss Hannah Gould

£50 - Mr Ian Beer

£50 - Mr Nick Somers

£50 - Mr Ian Watson

Please visit www.whitgiftianassociation/500-club for an application and standing order form.

Appeal for the archives

Whitgift archivist, Bill Wood, wonders if anyone has early film or videos of School life they might like to donate to the archive, especially from the 1950s onwards. He says, "Whether it is amateur footage of a rugby match, a field trip, overseas trips or just short clips of school activities or possibly showing boys walking about town, I would love to hear from you." Either original film or CD/DVD gratefully accepted. Do please get in touch if you are able to assist. Call 020 8633 9926 or send an email to wgw@whitgift.co.uk.

Christmas Family Lunch

Christmas Family Lunch Sunday 15th December 2013 at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road

Join other OWs and their families for this special Christmas occasion, attended by the Big Man himself!
Tickets are £75 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 children). £30 for adults and £10 for children under 12.

10% discount on drinks at the bar with presentation of your membership card.

For further information or queries, please contact the Whitgift Sports Club on 020 8686 2127
or email office@whitsports.co.uk.

MENU

Roasted parsnip & butternut squash soup
Roast turkey and gammon plus all the trimmings
Christmas pudding and custard, mince pies & brandy butter
Cheese and biscuits
Tea and coffee
* Special children's menu *
... and Santa Claus with presents!



Dates for the Diary

Thur	7 Nov	Careers Conversazione	School	7.00
Fri	8 Nov	Vice Presidents' Dinner	School	7.30
Sat	9 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Mon	11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Mon	11 Nov	Dedication of WW1 Plaque	School	11.00
Fri	15 Nov	Opening of GHB Room	Clubhouse	7.30
Sat	16 Nov	Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
Thur	21 Nov	School Music Concert	Fairfield Halls	7.00
28-29	Nov	School Play	School	7.30
Sat	30 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Wed	4 Dec	OWCC AGM	Clubhouse	8.00
Sat	7 Dec	WA Annual General Meeting	School	11:00
	11/12 Dec	School Play	School	7.30
Sun	15 Dec	WSC Christmas Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thur	19 Dec	School Carol Concert	Croydon Minster	7.30
Sat	21 Dec	WSC Whitfest	Clubhouse	12.00

What's On

Sat	2 Nov	Wands XV v London Irish	H	L	2.30
Sat	9 Nov	1stXV v Old Wimbledonians	H	L	2.30
Sat	9 Nov	School 1stXV v High Wycombe	H		2.00
Tues	12 Nov	School U15XV v Epsom	H	Cup	2.30
Wed	13 Nov	School 1stXV v John Fisher	H	Cup	2.30
Sat	16 Nov	School 1stXV v Dulwich	H		2.30
Sat	23 Nov	Wands XV v Twickenham	H	L	2.30
Sat	23 Nov	School 1stXV v Millfield	A		1.30
Sat	30 Nov	1stXV v Old Tiffinians	H	L	2.30
Sat	30 Nov	School 1stXV v Langley Park	H		10.30
Sat	7 Dec	Wands XV v Old Paulines	H	L	2.15
Sat	14 Dec	School 1stXV v Glyn	H		10.30
Thur	26 Dec	1stXV v Old Alneyians	A		2.00

Please visit www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events
for more details of events and to book your tickets online.

Recent deaths - The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

Sir David Hancock (1944-52) past President of the Association, d. 5th September, aged 79

Major Mike Willis (1956-64) d. September, aged 68

Michael Hugill, ex-Headmaster (1961-70) d. 28th August, aged 95

Harry Fulcher (1966-73) d. 6th August, aged 57

John Smiddy (1941-47) d. October, aged 84

John Robinson (1971-78) d. 13th September, aged 53

Peter Ashwood (1930-39) died earlier this year, aged 92

David Whitehead (1947-55) d. March, aged 76

John Simms (1937-43) d. 18th October, aged 88

If you hear of the passing of any Old Whitgiftians or ex staff members, please do let us know
by emailing office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or telephoning 020 8633 9926.

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 351 covering January / February closes on Saturday 14th December. All news and photographs (preferably emailed) should be sent to Richard Blundell at editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk, to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JG or via the WA Office at Haling Park. Tel: 020 8633 9926 if you have any queries.